

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

In the office action of March 10, 2004, the disclosure was objected to, claims 8-10 were allowed, claims 1 and 5-7 were rejected, and claims 2-4 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. The applicant requests amendment of the specification, FIG. 16, and claims 1 and 5, as indicated above.

The specification was objected to in the office action and correction of the status of the patent applications, serial numbers 10/202,435 and 09/491,488, was required. The applicant requests amendment of the first paragraph of page 1 of the specification, as indicated above, to update the specification by adding the patent numbers US 6,604,394 B2 and US 6,615,625 B2 corresponding, respectively, to the above cited applications.

The specification was also objected to for failure to provide support in the written description for the protrusions recited in claims 5-7. The applicant requests amendment of the specification at page 17, line 18, as indicated above, to specifically refer to the mating spaced apart protrusions on the front 268 and rear 269 portions of the cylinder 214 and amendment of FIG. 16 to add item numbers 268b and 269b to particularly reference the protrusions on the respective portions of the cylinder. The applicant respectfully submits that the interconnecting protrusions on the front and rear portions of the cylinder were clearly illustrated in the assembly view, FIG. 16, and no new matter has been added.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Bianco (US 5,791,177). According to the office action, Bianco teaches an electronic lock including a cylinder having a front portion (rotating elements) 340 and a rear portion (rear shaft) 332 housed for rotation in a shell 302, the rear portion being detachable from the front portion in the FIG. 9A condition, wherein the rear portion contains the locking member 330. However, the applicant respectfully submits that the rotating elements 340 and rear shaft 332 of Bianco are not "detachably interconnected" because there is no internal connection or interconnection of the rotating elements and the rear shaft and the two elements are rotatable in unison only when a third element is shifted to engage both elements. Since the rotating elements 340 and the rear shaft 332 of Bianco are not interconnected, moving the locking member 332 toward the shell 302 does not interfere with rotation of the cylinder, as more clearly indicated in amended

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claim 1, as the "front portion" of the cylinder of Bianco, rotating elements 340, is freed to rotate relative to the shell by this movement of the locking member. The applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Bianco and requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 2-4 stand objected to as allowable if rewritten in independent form but based on a rejected base claim; claim 1. For the reasons stated above, the applicant submits that claim 1 is not anticipated and, therefore, requests withdrawal of the objection to claims 2-4.

Claims 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Gokcebay et al. (US 5,552,777) in view of Sieg et al. (US 5,193,372). According to the office action, Sieg teaches a cylinder including a front portion 14 in FIGS. 1 and 3 rotated by a key and a rear portion 19 of a cylinder detachably connected to the front portion 14 by matingly engageable protrusions defined by portions 14' labeled in FIG. 1 which are located peripherally relative to the cylinder portion 14 and which extend longitudinally to be detachably connected to pins 20 of the rear portion 19 of the cylinder. However, the applicant respectfully submits that the element 19 of Sieg is a flanged bearing portion (column 4, line(s) 39-43) that secures a closure element 5 for rotation in the housing 2 (column 4, line(s) 3-4); and that neither the flanged bearing 19 or the closure element 5 is part of the lock cylinder which consists of the core unit 1 which is received in but not rotatable in the external housing 2 (column 3, line(s) 67-68). Further, the applicant respectfully submits that neither the closure element 5 nor the flanged bearing 19 include, or is part of, a locking mechanism that is movable to interfere or permit rotation of the cylinder with respect to the shell as recited in amended claim 5. The applicant respectfully submits that both Gokcebay and Sieg disclose locks having single piece cylinders that must be removed in their entirety for replacement. The applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 is not obvious because the prior art does not disclose or suggest an electronic lock including a cylinder having a front portion engageable by a key and rear portion including a lock mechanism, the front and rear portions being detachably interconnected by matingly engageable protrusions. Further, the applicant submits that the prior art does not suggest or provide a motivation for modifying the respective disclosures to create a lock as recited in amended claim 5. The applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5.

With regard to claims 6 and 7, the applicant submits that the claims are dependent from claim 5 and inherit all of the limitations of claim 5. The applicant respectfully submits that since

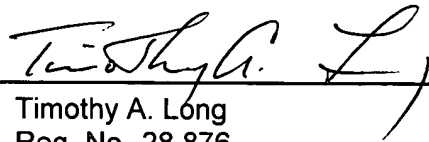
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claim 5 is not obvious from the combination of Gokcebay and Sieg, for the reasons stated above, claims 6 and 7 are, likewise, not obvious. The applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6 and 7.

The applicant acknowledges allowance of claims 8-10.

The applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes that for any reason direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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